Special Imprest License for duty free import of inputs required for manufacturing capital goods (b) deemed export drawback (c) refund of Terminal Excise Duty and (d) Special Import license © 6% of the F.O.R. value.

The review of Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme/EOU and EPZ schemes is currently not under consideration.

(c) and (d) The level of protection given to the domestic industry is an autonomous decision of the Government of India as a part of its overall economic policy. Under commitments to the WTO, all agricultural items and about 62% of the industrial tariff lines are bound at various levels. The applied rates of customs duties are, however, by and large below the bound levels committed under WTO. There is thus no cause for any serious apprehensions of a surge in imports.

Improvements in Patent Bill

1863. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Law Commission has suggested many improvements in the Patent (Amendment) Bill vide Hindu, dated the 21st October, 1999;

(b) the summary of the suggested improvements; and

(c) whether Government propose to incorporate these improvements in the bill now before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) The Law Commission, in its 167th Report on the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998, suggested amendments in the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998. The report of Law Commission was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 28th October, 1999. The suggestions of the Law Commission, as relevant to the legislation, were considered. The Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998 was passed by both Houses of Parliament and it also received the assent of the President on 26th March, 1999.